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40 pairs at the start of the Swimrun Nikki Beach

This Sunday, April 19, 80 athletes will be lined up at the starting line of the eighth edition of the Swimrun Nikki Beach on Flamands Beach.

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The tourism observatory analyzes the 2024/2025 season

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The port director Ernest Brin announces his departure

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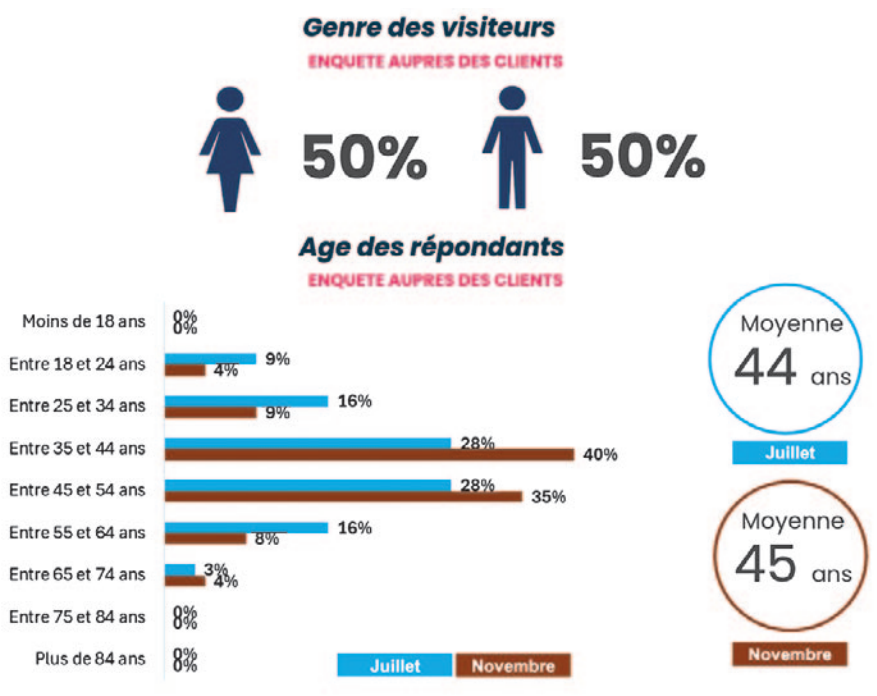
A Tourist Year Examined Under a Microscope

The Tourism Committee Observatory has released its report on the 2024/2025 season. A document that includes a study on clientele, on economic impacts, but also on the occupancy rates of hotels, villas, and restaurants.

Through its Observatory, the Saint-Barthélemy Tourism Committee (CTTSB) has set itself the mission of providing a detailed annual report on the island's activity. To do so, CTTSB agents collected information and data from the various stakeholders in the tourism sector: port, airport, restaurants, hotels, villas, shops, the territorial community, and, of course, visitors. Beyond being able to present a document that measures tourist attendance and its economic impact, the objectives of the Observatory are to offer a comprehensive and strategic vision to elected officials and professionals in the sector. To understand the nature of tourism in Saint-Barth and thus have a solid foundation to coherently project into the future.



Port and airport

The report runs for 67 pages and concerns the 2024/2025 season. Regarding airport attendance, it is noted that 203,569 travelers were counted during the observed period. In both 2024 and 2025, 60% of travelers bound for Saint-Barth transited through Princess Juliana Airport in Sint Maarten. The port remains the main gateway to the island, with 387,268 passengers in 2025 and 375,261 in 2024. This includes ferry traffic, cruise ships, and pleasure boats. The highest attendance ever recorded.

Visitor profile

To outline the visitor profile, the Observatory met with a sample of 398 tourists and 122 socio-professionals. The sample reveals an average age ranging from 37 to 45 years depending on the time of the season, an equal distribution between women and men, and origins mostly from the United States. By directly questioning tourists, the Observatory distinguishes an early-season clientele that is 70% from the United States, versus 49% at the end of the season. Mainland France ranks second, representing 20% of attendance at the end of the season and 15% at the beginning. Among socio-professionals, the observation is similar, with an overwhelming majority of people coming from the United States. Mainland France, Canada, and Brazil also appear in the attendance figures. Saint Martin, Guadeloupe, and Martinique are also represented in the statistics.

Visitors come to Saint-Barth with friends, family, or as couples, but rarely alone. The average group size ranges between 3.2 and 4.1 people.

At the beginning of the season, the annual income bracket of visitors exceeds 200,000 euros in 69% of cases, compared to "only" 49% at the end of the season.

More than 40% of the tourists surveyed by the CTTSB are making their first stay in Saint-Barth. Conversely, socio-professionals indicate that regular clients represent between 50 and 70% of their clientele at the start of the season. At the end of the season, they still make up more than 30% of visitors.

High expenditures

In July, the average budget spent by visitors amounts to 7,905 euros per stay, corresponding to approximately 338 euros per day per person. Significant differences are observed according to nationality. American visitors have an average budget of about 440 euros per day per person, while French visitors spend an average of 146 euros per day per person.

In November, average expenditures increase sharply to reach 12,248 euros per stay, or about 453 euros per day per person. Again, Americans stand out with an average daily budget of about 518 euros per person, compared to 212 euros per day per person for French visitors.

Clients spend an average of 7,059 euros in shops in May, compared to 1,927 euros in November. Accommodation expenses amount to 6,800 euros in May but see a sharp increase in November, reaching an average of 24,250 euros.

Preferred hotels and villas

Depending on the time of year, visitors prefer different types of accommodation. The figures vary between the responses given by tourists and socio-professionals. According to the latter, from November onwards, private villas account for 52% of clientele, compared to 42% for hotels, 30% for luxury establishments, 26% for "others" (residences), and 9% for houses or apartments. At the end of the season, around July, 29% of visitors choose residences, 29% houses and apartments, 27% private villas, 15% luxury establishments, and 12% hotels.

The average length of stay ranges between six and eight days.

Areas for improvement

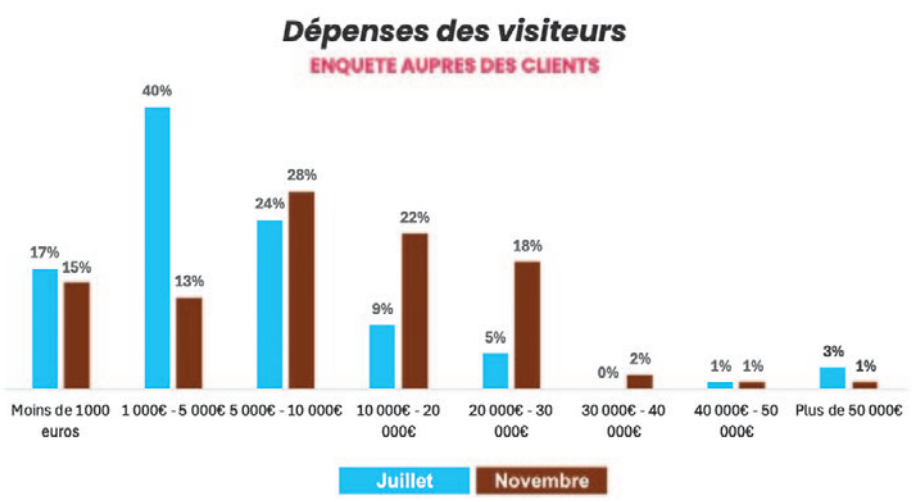
Traffic and transportation, parking, a loss of authenticity, sometimes the quality of service (lack of flexibility in restaurant reservations), and prices that are too high—these are the main complaints expressed by those surveyed.

Luxury goods

The Observatory also examines the economic impact through imports of luxury goods, based on customs data, i.e., declared amounts. In 2024, watchmaking accounted for more than 21.3 million euros, jewelry 7.36 million, ready-to-wear 8.9 million, and leather goods more than 8.2 million. "The evolution of luxury goods imports is largely explained by the high income level of visitors, mostly from an international clientele with strong purchasing power," the report specifies. In 2024, luxury goods imports generated more than 2.3 million euros in tax revenues for the Collectivity. This is a noticeable decline compared to 2023, when more than 3.8 million had been collected.

Meanwhile, in 2024-2025, the tourist tax brought in more than 17.1 million euros to the territorial Collectivity. 55.3% of this amount comes from hotels and 44.7% from villas, which therefore play a key role in collecting the tax.

T.F.



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Ernest Brin casts off the moorings

After 37 years spent within the harbor master's office, including 16 as director of the port of Saint-Barthélemy, Ernest Brin has officially announced his departure at the end of June.

By his own admission, Ernest Brin did not imagine "making a career" at the port. When he joined the service as a supervisor in 1989, he had "no plan in mind." Especially not the one to take on the role of director, twenty years later, in 2009. But the man let himself be guided by his taste for service and contact. To the point of not seeing time pass. So, when announcing his retirement, emotion could only seize him. On Saturday, April 11, in a symbolic place charged with a history that is also his own, namely the La Capricieuse room of the harbor master's office, Ernest Brin declared: "There are moments when words weigh more heavily than usual. This is one of them. It is not just a position I will leave at the end of June, it is a part of me that I entrust to the future."

To honor the departure of the man who presided over the destiny of the port of Saint-Barthélemy for so many years, a few officials (not the president of the Collectivity Xavier Lédée, who was away in Aruba), partners, professionals from the port and maritime world, and close acquaintances were present. "When I started here, I simply had the desire to serve," insists Ernest Brin. "To serve a port, but above all to serve an island, a population, an economy, a maritime identity unique in the world." An idea that undoubtedly never crossed the mind of the little boy born in the Public neighborhood a few decades earlier.

Ernest Brin, director of the port since 2009, will retire next June.

Beginnings in hotel industry

Yet, Ernest Brin grew up in a good environment, with a father in the navy. As for his mother, she worked in the textile manufacturing company for tourism owned by Jean-Yves Froment. He went to school in Sainte-Marie, in Colombier. "We used to walk there," he recalls. "We went through the Grand Savane path." Arriving in ninth grade, the teenager he was then was not quite sure which path to take. "But I was good at English and I liked contact," he explains. "I went into hospitality and catering in Baimbridge, in Les Abymes." Quite comfortable, he continued the adventure and flew to a hospitality high school in Dinard, Brittany. Then came the return to Saint-Barthélemy.

"I joined the Manapany, which was about to open," Ernest Brin recalls. "For two months, I worked in the gardens while waiting for the furniture to arrive." For his first steps in the working world, he practiced a profession he had learned. "I wanted to serve," he assures. "But I also had responsibility for catering, stock management, etc. I worked seven days a week for at least five months, with a smile. I met some of the greats of this world in this establishment: Versace, the Boeing family, politicians, artists (He searches and cites Mick Jagger and Jerry Hall)... We did all this for pleasure." He remembers creating a maître d'hôtel competition. "I won two or three," he jokes.

"I learned on the job"

In 1989, Mayor Daniel Blanchard was recruiting for the harbor master's office. The Transat was coming, and extra hands were needed. "At the time, I thought I was going to Italy, but it didn't happen," Ernest Brin says. "So I went to the port." He joined as a simple supervisor. "I learned on the job," he assures. The team grew, and he became a port security officer. In 2009, director Bruno Gréaux retired. Another Bruno, Magras, president of the young Territorial Collectivity, offered him the directorship. The time when, as a teenager, Ernest Brin was windsurfing in the port is now far behind.

"It was an honor for me," he states. "To work with President Bruno Magras, with Michel Magras as well. We saw the explosion of this port coming, with more and more boats." During his speech on April 11, Ernest Brin added: "Directing the port of Gustavia has always been for me much more than an administrative mission. It has been a commitment to serve the territory, its economic development, its international attractiveness, and the preservation of its environmental and social balances."

From his years in office, he draws "great satisfaction" from all that has been accomplished. "Of everything entrusted to me, I don't think anything failed," he estimates. "Everything I proposed was implemented and works. But there are still plenty of things to do. I still have many ideas!" And memories, too.

Like when, three weeks after taking office in 2009, he had to make the decision to clear the port on December 27 because of a strong swell approaching. He thinks of Hurricane Gonzalo in 2014, which sank 43 boats. Irma in 2017, of course. But also the evening of February 4, 2023, when a CMA CGM container cargo ship, the Mimer, ran aground just a few meters from the commercial port. "I wasn't easy to live with during the busy seasons, but I was constantly worried," he breathes. "People blame my character, but I am convinced that it is thanks to that that I was able to hold the port. Between the sea adventurers and the billionaires, you must make no distinction and ensure that things are done by the rules."

When he leaves his duties, Ernest Brin already knows what he will do with his time. "Vacations with family, first of all," he smiles. "And then I have plenty of projects." Like continuing his work for health on the island as president of the Fémur.

T.F.

The Red Cross Has Its New President

The search lasted many months. Finding a successor to Christine Moizan as president of the territorial delegation of the Red Cross of Saint-Barthélemy was no easy task. But it eventually ended in success. Since Wednesday, April 8, the many people involved on the island within the association have known the name of their new president. He is a man with experience in healthcare. Specifically, the current director of the Irénée de Bruyn hospital center, Éric Djamakorzian.

A meeting with some of the volunteers was organized on Saturday, April 11, at the hospital to officially mark the president's entry into office. "It was hard to find someone, but Michèle (Vaillot) went fishing and hooked a big fish," joked, relieved, the former president of the delegation, Jean-Noël Machon.

Elected new president of the territorial delegation of the Red Cross in Saint-Barthélemy, Éric Djamakorzian was welcomed by the historical leaders and volunteers during a ceremony on Saturday, April 11.

Standing beside him, to welcome Éric Djamakorzian into the organization, was the national administrator of the Red Cross, Joël Destom. He conveyed the words of the national president, Caroline Cross, who made a visit to Saint-Barthélemy in December 2025 (JSB 1542).

"The Red Cross holds a special place in society," said Joël Destom. "It is a chain of humanity expressed through countless everyday acts. It surpasses us." While paying tribute to the work done by Christine Moizan during her four years of presidency, the national administrator also expressed his thoughts "for all the Red Cross volunteers currently working in the Middle East."

For Éric Djamakorzian, the meeting was an opportunity for a first contact with the volunteers. "We don't know each other well, but my first greeting goes to all of you volunteers, and my second greeting to the leadership team and the former president," he said. "I feel the pressure because I will have to follow in the footsteps of all that you have accomplished. But I am still active, so I intend to rely on all of you and on your kindness."

The new president gave two reasons that led him to accept this new mission. "The values of the Red Cross correspond to mine," he assured. "Moreover, I had no associative commitment on the island." Éric Djamakorzian described the association as "a link in an international chain," aware of the importance of a local structure. "My goal is to strengthen what already works well and to find new avenues of activity with you," he concluded.

Éric Djamakorzian is the fifth president of the territorial delegation of the Red Cross in Saint-Barthélemy, which was established in 2005. The association today counts about forty volunteers on the island, actively participates in several important systems such as emergency response in case of natural disasters, and offers many services (a thrift shop in Gustavia, first aid training, tutoring, etc.).

T.F.

Three hours of nocturnal downpour

Between 75 and 120 millimeters of rain fell in three hours over Saint-Barthélemy during the night from Tuesday, April 14 to Wednesday, April 15, causing damage to the road network and to private properties.

The heavy rainfall recorded during the night from Tuesday, April 14 to Wednesday, April 15 caused runoff and landslides in various parts of the island. Like here in Grand Fond.

Under a heavy downpour, in the middle of the night, a resident of Cul-de-Sac watches torrents of water pouring onto her terrace and into her house. It is around 2:25 a.m., during the night between Tuesday, April 14 and Wednesday, April 15. The heavy rains falling over three-quarters of the island contributed to creating a genuine waterfall flowing from the top of the hill down to her home. More precisely, from the excavation sites of other houses built on the slope. A situation that is obviously not unique to Saint-Barth. In any case, in three hours, between 75 and 120 millimeters of rain fell over most of the island.

The first consequence of this sudden and powerful episode was a series of damages. On the road network, first of all. Mainly due to water flows that carried mud and rocks in their wake. The first workers on Wednesday morning therefore had to venture onto sections of roads that had become dangerous. Notably in Grand Fond, Camaruche, Anse des Cayes, Marigot, and others. "It's a disaster," sighed a resident of Anse des Cayes. Fortunately, very quickly, officers from the Collectivity were mobilized to clean the roads. Some individuals and workers who were less hurried also took the time, in some places, to clear areas covered with stones and mud before continuing their journey.

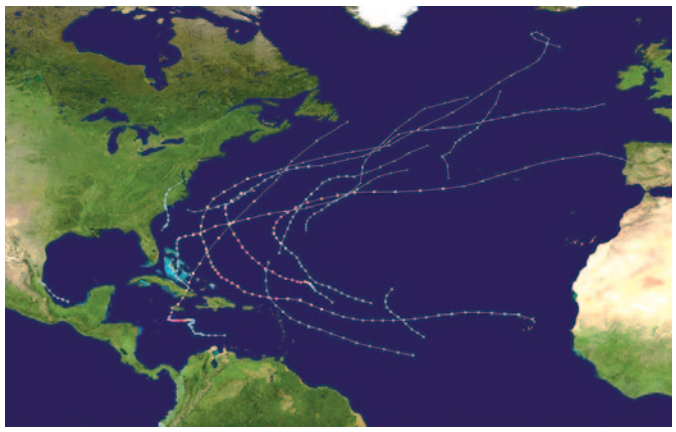
On the occasion of this heavy rainfall episode, questions resurfaced. About the relevance of certain buildings, constructed without taking into account natural ravine zones. About developments, too. "The slides with the stone walls lining the roads do not help and the water arrives much faster in the lower areas," noted an internet user. But also about the progress of the security works on the hills designated as "sensitive" after a landslide occurred. Like the one overlooking the Public road, a route that has remained closed in one direction of traffic for six months.

Geotechnicians expected

The Geological and Mining Research Bureau (BRGM) of Guadeloupe submitted a report in early January to the Territorial Collectivity (JSB 1648). A document that contains several recommendations to secure the area. Territorial councilor and president of the commission for development control and territorial modernization, Fabrice Querrard, told JSB that "geotechnicians are expected to come this month" to Saint-Barth. Their mission will be to verify whether the installation of safety nets or meshes is possible on the hill. This operation must also be carried out, after conducting a thorough geotechnical study, on the Depoudré hill from which large rocks detached on September 18, 2025 (JSB 1631, 1632). Meanwhile, caution remains necessary for road users who take this route, especially on rainy days and nights.

Moreover, while the rain caused some damage, it also had beneficial effects. "My cistern filled up by 28%," smiled a resident of Vitet. When the misfortune of some brings happiness to others. ***T.F.***

Cyclone season: forecasts lower than those for 2025



The trajectories of the cyclones of the 2025 season. The points indicate the position of each storm at 6-hour intervals. © National Hurricane Center's

The University of Colorado and the British institute Tropical Storm Risk have revealed the first trends for the 2026 cyclone season in the Atlantic Ocean (June 1 to November 30). Under the influence of an intense "Super El Niño" phenomenon, activity in the Atlantic appears to be slightly below the usual averages. According to information published by the University of Colorado, thirteen storms are expected for this 2026 season, with six hurricanes including two major ones. On the side of Tropical Storm Risk, the trend points to

More than 3,530 tons of sargassum collected since January

On the Saint-Jean site located between the Super U store and the construction site of the future shopping center of SCI La Savane, trucks loaded with sargassum go back and forth daily. In their dump beds, sargassum torn from the sand of the beaches where they have washed ashore. The main consequence: on the Saint-Jean plot of land, freshly collected algae pile up on others, in decay, which empty their substance and dry in the sun. All together forming a small and most nauseating hill.

Since the beginning of 2026, according to a letter dated April 9 from the president of the Collectivity, more than 3,530 tons of sargassum algae washed up on the beaches of Saint-Barthélemy (3,537, to be precise) have been collected by the companies delegated by the market awarded by the Territorial Collectivity. The sargassum hill erected in Saint-Jean was relieved of 2,670 and 2,246 tons after transport by barges to Saint-Martin.

At Grand-Fond as on other beaches of the island, sargassum arrivals continue.

In April 2025, just before undergoing a massive invasion (about 15,406 tons collected between May and August), territorial councilor Rudi Laplace (from the Saint-Barth d'Abord group) took up the sargassum file. A file that had hardly progressed since the start of the mandate. Except for the annual investments for the collection of beached sargassum, of course. This represents, approximately and on average, since 2022, nearly two million euros per year. Since then, in collaboration with the Collectivity's environment department, Rudi Laplace created a technical committee whose work complemented that carried out within the Steering Committee for the fight against sargassum.

At the end of January, the elected members of the executive council voted to award a project management contract to the company Egis Water and Maritime, which is responsible for designing and installing diversion barriers. An operation expected to last from two to three years. The Collectivity announces the installation of the first one in Marigot Bay "during the summer of 2026." Studies of marine currents in other bays in the north of the island will be undertaken to determine whether the installation of other barriers is feasible.

At the same time, hotel establishments whose activity suffered from the sargassum invasion in June 2025 took the initiative to install their own protection devices. This, after consultation meetings with the Collectivity's environment department and the Territorial Environment Agency (ATE).

Other arrivals announced

The latest sargassum stranding forecast bulletin from Météo France, dated Monday, April 13, reveals the trends for the next two weeks. Unsurprisingly, arrivals are expected. "The Atlantic Ocean remains very loaded with sargassum algae," it is specified. The rafts are mostly small in size but remain very numerous and well present near exposed coasts and offshore in an east sector flow. Arrivals occur on both islands (Saint-Martin and Saint-Barthélemy, editor's note), repeatedly on the coastline exposed to the flow and do not seem to have any respite at the moment." For the next two weeks, the stranding forecast index for Saint-Barthélemy as well as for Saint-Martin is "strong," indicates Météo France.

T.F.

Disability Fortnight: a founding first edition

In the absence of having met the hoped-for popular success, at least in attracting more public attention to issues related to disability, the Fortnight organized by the Territorial House for Disabled Persons (MTPH), in partnership with the Directorate of Social Cohesion and the Collectivity, offered a space for exchange and reflection to the island's professionals. "A great energy was deployed," rejoices Aurélie Garrigues, project manager within the MTPH. "There was a great emulation," she adds. The fact that the events did not attract many people may have been a blessing in disguise. Because we, the professionals, I believe, needed these times to exchange among ourselves." During round tables, awareness-raising operations, conferences, meetings, not to mention a theatrical performance, a photography exhibition, and the establishment of the Wall of Commitments at the entrance of the Saint-Jean stadium. And the Handi-Color, of course, thanks to the work of the volunteers from the Handi-Relais association.

PSo that the event endures and gains visibility, Aurélie Garrigues envisions the creation of a "Quinzaine committee." "This could help deinstitutionalize the organizations and bring together the most energetic people," she suggests, also mentioning the possibility of soliciting participation from hotels through the Tourism Committee. One thing is certain: the Quinzaine must be renewed. So that the issue of disability can finally shed its taboos.

Reconstruction of the hospital: a petition and questions

Last week, the eight territorial councilors of the Action-Équilibre group launched a petition. Its purpose is to compel the president of the Territorial Collectivity to reconsider the possibility of rebuilding the hospital in Saint-Jean rather than on the current site in Gustavia. For now, the results of the first week of collecting signatures from the public have not been revealed. However, the initiative taken by the elected officials has raised many questions. Such as the consequences of an unlikely—but still possible—reversal that would send the new hospital project to Saint-Jean.

Time, first of all. Because by deciding to move the project, its start would be delayed by a year and a half to two years. Not due to the hospital project itself, since it has already been developed and finalized by the management of the establishment. The functional plan will therefore not change, and the architects who will be responsible for designing the buildings will still have to refer to it.

However, since the architectural competition must be launched imminently, it is essential that the site for the future construction be known. If only to determine with certainty the cost of the works, notably based on company purchase orders. As long as these steps have not begun, it is still possible to direct the project towards Saint-Jean.

It is nevertheless difficult to imagine that, one year before the territorial elections, after having announced his firm intention to rebuild in Gustavia by investing 28.8 million euros, President Lédée would change his plans. Unless the petition from the Action-Équilibre group gathers a large number of signatures. As a campaign approaches, every vote counts.

Saint-Barth takes the presidency of the Octa

In Aruba, on April 11, Saint Barthélemy was designated to assume the presidency of the Association of Overseas Countries and Territories (Octa). Photo @ComStbarth

On Saturday, April 11, on the occasion of the 21st EU-OCT Forum (European Union – Overseas Countries and Territories) in Aruba, the presidency of Octa (Association of Overseas Countries and Territories) was entrusted to Saint Barthélemy, represented by the president of the territorial council Xavier Lédée and the head of the innovation and development department, Pascal Peuchot. The Collectivity will now have the responsibility to represent the Overseas Countries and Territories before European institutions, but also to ensure a strengthening of ties between the thirteen member countries of the association while supporting common actions that could be undertaken. As a reminder, Saint Barthélemy became an OCT in 2012, which notably allows it to be exempt from the European Union customs zone and to benefit from a legal framework better suited to its particularities.

A wave of joy and solidarity for Handi-Color

More than 600 people took part in the Handi-Color solidarity march organized on Sunday, April 9 by the Handi-Relais association. A festive, joyful, and inclusive event that was made possible thanks to the commitment of numerous partners and sponsors as well as the island's population. A look back in pictures, and in color, at a march whose proceeds will help fund a year's worth of respite tickets for families of people with disabilities. ©Alain Photography 971

On the occasion of Handi-Color, Axelle and Nanou, the Pipelettes of the Rotary Club, presented a check for 19,200 euros to the association Handi-Relais. This amount is the result of donations collected by the two women during their participation in the Femina Adventure in Guadeloupe, in November 2025. The money will be used to finance the purchase of a vehicle adapted for the transportation of people with disabilities as well as residents of the nursing home.

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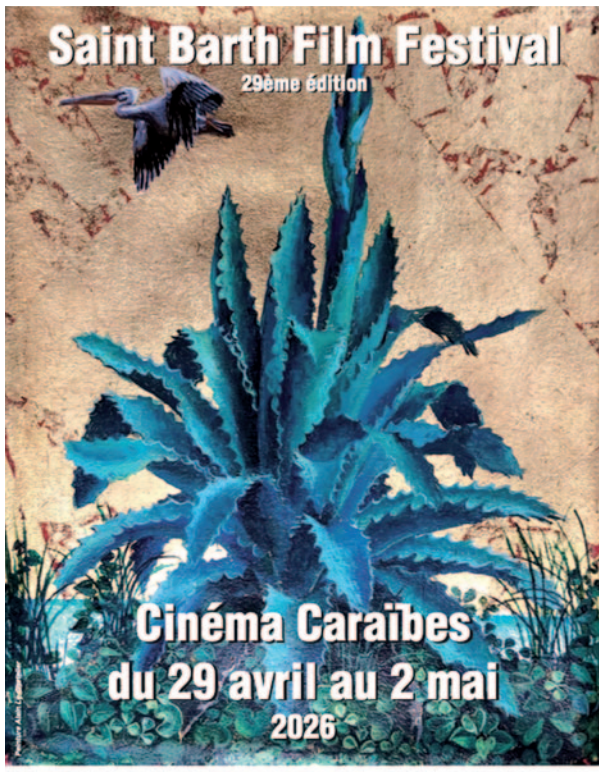
The documentary in the spotlight for the 29th edition of the Saint-Barth Film Festival

Short films about the island's heritage, a tribute to director Christopher Laird, a trip to Argentina, Cuba, Stockholm, New York... The 29th edition of the Saint-Barth Film Festival highlights documentaries, from April 29 to May 2.

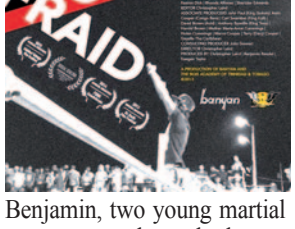
Four days of film and documentary presentations showcasing the diversity and cultural richness of the wider Caribbean basin. This is the proposition of the organizers of the Saint-Barth Film Festival who, from April 29 to May 2, will celebrate its 29th edition. With a particular focus: to highlight the documentary in order to take viewers into the heart of Caribbean worlds, wherever they may be. Starting with that of Saint-Barthélemy.



St. Bat' Tradition to open the festival

Indeed, to open the festival on April 29 at 8 p.m. on the Ajoe stage, the organizers will screen a series of short films made by local artists. The project, conceived by the cultural commission and funded by the Territorial Collectivity, aims to shine a spotlight on traditional aspects of the island.

Thus, through their production "Dialogue with Saint-Barth," Emilie Berry and Drôle de trame will present five shorts, each 9 to 11 minutes long, about straw weaving, the Christmas truck, Christmas pudding, All Saints' Day, and Saint-Barth houses. As for Alysée Montana Eloi and Johan Androit (aka KWT), they focused for twelve minutes on fishing in "Lanmé an nou." Finally, our excellent colleague and contributor Albane Harmange directed two other shorts titled "Les galettes" and "A nos gongonnes," both fifteen minutes long.



Benjamin, two young martial arts experts who embark on a journey to discover their roots by getting initiated into the local martial art that is stick fighting.

From Trinidad to Buenos Aires

On Thursday, April 30, at the Théâtre du Paradis in Gustavia, the feature-length documentary (1 hour 18 minutes, 2013) by Christopher Laird entitled "No bois no fraid" will be screened at 10 a.m., in the presence of the director. The film is dedicated to the kalinda stick fighting in Trinidad and Tobago. It features Keegan Taylor and Rondel Nieves Rego and Juan Carlos Copes. It is also the story of their immense love for this dance.

La Sirene et le Chevalier

On Friday, May 1, the day will begin at 10 a.m. at the Théâtre du Paradis with the

screening of « La Sirene et le Chevalier» (2019 to 2026, 52 minutes), in the presence of director Steve James and singer Charlotta Huldt. From Stockholm to New York, from Guadeloupe to Cuba, from the Opera to Gwo Ka, this documentary is a cultural adventure that talks about music but also about a social injustice that has spanned time.

At 8 p.m., at Ajoe, Johan Grimonprez will present "Soundtrack to a coup d'État" (2024, 2 hours 30 minutes). "Jazz, politics, and decolonization intertwine in this historical rollercoaster that rewrites an incredible episode of the Cold War," write the festival programmers.

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« TOUT SIMPLEMENT MERVEILLEUX »
« UNE VIGUEUR, UNE LIBERTÉ, UNE DEXTÉRITÉ DIGNES DES PLUS GRANDS JAZZMEN »
« UN IMPRESSIONNANT ÉDIFICE, ESTHÉTIQUE ET HISTORIQUE »
SOUNDTRACK to a COUP d'ETAT

Short Films and Cuban Cuisine

On Saturday, May 2, the festival's closing day will begin at 10 a.m. at the Théâtre du Paradis with a tribute to director Christopher Laird. Four films from the Banyan Film archives, made between 1983 and 2023: "Partir" (22 minutes, Trinidad and Tobago), "Concert in the Tropical Forest" (2002, 25 minutes, Trinidad and Tobago), "The Death of the Swan" (2016, 10 minutes, Trinidad and Tobago), and "The Banyan Collection, the Power of Video" (2015, 6 minutes, Trinidad and Tobago).

In the evening, at 8 p.m. at Ajoe, Cuban director Asori Soto will invite viewers to discover his "Cuban Food Stories" (2018, 1 hour 22 minutes). The film explores Cuban gastronomy, society, and culture. Through nine stories, Asori Soto explores the current culinary landscape of his country and offers a glimpse into its future. It is a personal road trip across the island, discovering the most authentic stories of Cuban cuisine.

Created in 1996, the Saint-Barth Film Festival "Caribbean Cinema" is organized by Ellen Lampert-Gréaux, Joshua Harrison, Rosemond Gréaux, Bénédicte Maudet, Bernard Grogan, Pascale Dillard, and Rachel Kaufman.

Saint-Barth and its biodiversity

The peacock mantis shrimp

Every week, the Journal de Saint-Barth offers you, in partnership with the Territorial Environment Agency, to discover a species (fauna, flora, terrestrial or marine) that inhabits the vast biodiversity of the island. This week, the peacock mantis shrimp or Neogonodactylus oerstedii.

• Where does it live?

In the Caribbean Sea or the Gulf of Mexico. In rocky chaos and on the reef, sometimes in the seagrass bed.

• What does it eat?

It is an opportunistic predator that mainly hunts crustaceans, but attacks all prey that come nearby.

• Did you know?

Mantis shrimps are among the fastest striking animals in the world, capable of pulverizing clam shells. Since this species is small in size, it cannot inflict serious injuries to a swimmer. But the encounter of a finger with this mantis shrimp is often, let's say, "surprising"!

Incivility

Pig of the week

If there is one section that disappeared too soon and whose return continues to be requested from the JSB, it is that of the "pig of the week." It had been established to highlight the missteps of some bewildered citizens who do not know where to dispose of their waste. But also, more frequently, the illegal and inappropriate dumping by small and sometimes large pigs who care little for their surroundings and environment when it comes to getting rid of their "overflow." For this restart, a gentle beginning with one of the most classic pigs: the one who spares no effort and shamelessly throws their used goods onto the public road. Next to trash bins, certainly, but ones that are not intended for this purpose.

An opportunity to remind that each resident has access to the Ecopôle Ouanalao Environment site of Paprec Énergies in Public.

Opening hours? Monday to Friday from 6 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., Saturday from 6 a.m. to 10:45 a.m., and Sunday and public holidays from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

SwimRun Nikki Beach

The start of the 8th edition on Flamands beach

The sun will have barely risen on Sunday, April 19, when the competitors line up at the start of the eighth edition of the SwimRun Nikki Beach. Forty teams, some coming from Saint Martin, will be participating in the event.

The race covers a total distance of 14.25 kilometers. Swimrun, as its name suggests, combines swimming and running in pairs (men, women, or mixed). It is divided into five running sections and four swimming sections.

The event must be swum and run in pairs with no more than ten meters of distance between teammates.

As in 2025, the start will be given on Flamands beach with a first running section of 400 meters on the sand. Then the 80 athletes will jump into the water to exit at Petite Anse.

The second running section of 3 km will take them to Corossol. There, at the pier, they will jump into the water for the swimming section that will bring them out at the slipway at Public. They will then set off for 2.5 km of running between Public and the dock in front of the Collectivity hotel. Then comes the third swimming section, between the esplanade of the Collectivity and Shell Beach. After returning to land, a fourth running section of 2.5 kilometers. Direction Calvary, the lighthouse, the Col de la Tourmente, and a finish at Saint-Jean beach on the airport side for the fourth and final swimming section.

The exit from the water will take place in front of Nikki Beach before setting off for the last kilometers running on a loop in Saint-Jean. The finish line will be in front of Nikki Beach.

The awards ceremony (men's, women's, and mixed rankings) will take place immediately afterward, around 9:45 a.m.

The forty pairs will meet at Saint-Jean, in front of Nikki Beach, at 4:45 a.m. After checking their equipment, they will be transported to the starting line at Flamands. Good race to all!

Scheddule

Saturday, April 18

- 4pm Volunteer briefing at the territorial swimming pool
- 5:30pm Athlete briefing in front of the ATE (near the Gustavia Lighthouse)

Sunday, April 19, 2026

- 4:45am: Meeting at St Jean Nikki Beach
- 5:00am: Transport to the starting line
- 6:00am: Start of the event
- 7:45am: Arrival of the first participants at St Jean Bay
- 9:00am Time Barrier: 3-hour time limit, race stop
- 9:45am: Award ceremony

Beach Tennis

GypSea and Cheval Blanc win the inter-hotel tournament

68 Beach tennis players gathered last Wednesday, April 8, for the first inter-hotel tournament organized by Ouanalao Beach Tennis. 34 pairs representing the island's hotel establishments. Teams from GypSea Hotel, Rosewood Guanahani Hotel & Spa, Le Barthélemy, Eden Rock, Cheval Blanc, Christopher, and Toiny competed on the courts at the sports field in Saint-Jean.

Among the men, it was the Cheval Blanc team, Nans Delest and Romain Bourgeois, who won the final against Antoine Fournier and Paul Barutel from Rosewood Guanahani.

On the women's side, Justine Ardiet and Anouk Suzzi from GypSea Hotel finished first ahead of Laura Grillet and Adriana Gergaud from Rosewood Guanahani.

If you wish to join the Ouanalao Beach Tennis club, feel free to come see them on Wednesday evenings from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Friday from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The organizers thank all the participants of "this beautiful evening," GypSea Hotel, Rosewood Guanahani Hotel & Spa, Le Barthélemy, Eden Rock, Cheval Blanc, Christopher, and Toiny as well as CCPF, la Petite Colombe, and the Tropical Hotel.

Optimist Sailing

In Brittany, the young sailors of Saint-Barth hold firm at the helm!

Since Sunday, eight young sailors from the Saint-Barth Yacht Club have been participating in the National Spring Cup (C.N.P.) of Optimist, taking place in Carantec (Finistère, Brittany).

After a first start delayed due to lack of wind, the regattas were finally able to begin! The 300 Optimists took to the sea under a sky that was finally mild but very changeable.

Coach at the sailing school, Cindy Brin is accompanying the delegation and says she is "proud of the work done all year" by her protégés. "It's simply extraordinary to have five young sailors from the Public sailing school in division 1 during a national competition," she rejoices.

After four days of competition, the minimes Stanley Haes, Lourenço Rolo Couto Jorge, Tao Carmona Bouvrais, Lewis Maxor, Léo Favreau (D1) and Nathanaël Basset (D2) as well as the benjamins Ethan Blanchet and Axel Vanden Eynde have "very encouraging results given the very difficult weather conditions," Cindy Brin highlights.

As we send these pages to the printer, the ranking of the young sailors of the SBYC is as follows: in division 1 minime, after eleven races, Lourenço Rolo Couto Jorge ranks 14th out of 87 sailors, Tao Carmona Bouvrais 15th, Léo Favreau 29th, Lewis Maxor 37th, and Stanley Haes 47th. In D2, after 8 races and in his first year as a minime, Nathanaël Basset is positioned 22nd out of 82 participants.

Among the benjamins, Ethan Blanchet ranks 20th (out of 81) after seven races, and Axel Vanden Eynde 40th.

A full report on the young sailors' trip will appear in our next edition.

Football

The Red Devils Alone at the Top

The top match of the third day of the championship lived up to all expectations. Last Saturday, on the pitch at Saint-Jean stadium, FC Red Devils faced FC Arawak. Both teams were then at the top of the standings, equal on points but with a slight advantage on goal difference ("goal average") for the Red Devils. In a fast-paced confrontation, it was these Red Devils who won. The score, which hints at the spectacle offered by both teams: 4 goals to 3. Now, the Red Devils stand alone at the top of the standings with 9 points, three wins in three matches.

The second match on Saturday, April 11, was marked by a goal avalanche. Indeed, ASPSB defeated AS Gustavia by five goals to four (5-4!).

This Saturday, April 18 at 7 p.m., for the fourth day, AS Gustavia will try to resist the fury of the Red Devils. At 9 p.m., ASPSB meets FC Arawak. In case of victory, ASPSB (3rd with 3 points) would catch up with Arawak (2nd with 6 points) in the standings.

Dance

The Surprise Sessions of Feriel Gharbi

Dancer Feriel Gharbi gave four improvised sessions of "heels" and "street jazz" at the Lorient dance hall.

Passing through Saint-Barthélemy, dancer Feriel Gharbi could not be content to just enjoy a sweet holiday break on a seaside deckchair. The dance teacher and director of 16.9 Studio thus contacted the president of Ajoe, Cécile Coudreau, in order to share her passion during four sessions. These were organized at the Lorient dance hall on the evenings of Monday, April 13 and Tuesday, April 14. The word quickly spread and many island dancers hurried to take part in the sessions, in high heels and in "street jazz." Driven by the energy of their teacher for the evening, the participants abandoned their daily routine on the hall bench to let the rhythms carry them away.

Pétanque

The Three Days of the Ti Moun Challenge

This weekend will be lively, at least on the Gambier pétanque court of Saint-Jean, with numerous pétanque games organized as part of the fourth edition of the Ti Moun Challenge. Cadets, minimes, juniors, about thirty young players are taking part in the competition, including sixteen from Guadeloupe, two from Saint-Martin, and the rest from the Saint-Barth Amicale Bouliste.

The competition starts this Thursday at 2 p.m. with the singles contest by category. After a snack break from 4 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., it will continue.

Tomorrow, Friday, April 17, the doubles contest by category will begin at 9 a.m. and last all day.

Finally, Saturday, the third and last day of the Ti Moun Challenge with the triples contest.

Each day will end with a meal gathering all licensed players. Because even the fiercest competition does not exclude conviviality!

Tennis

The "Kid's Trophy" Reaches the 17th Edition

About twenty children took part in the 17th "Kid's Trophy" of the SBTC. (Photos SBTC)

The Saint-Barth Tennis Club organized from April 6 to 11 the 17th edition of its "Kid's Trophy." An event that brought together young players from the island (SBTC, Ascco), from Saint-Martin, Guadeloupe, Guyana, and… Bordeaux. An event that the club's sports director, Yves Lacoste, considers "a great success." Indeed, it was in a spirit mixing competition, friendliness, and sharing that the twenty participants and their entourage took part. For this edition, SBTC offered four categories in TMC format (multi-chance tournament): green team, green individual, 11-14 team, and 11-14 individual. "Beyond the sporting aspect, this tournament promotes exchanges between coaches and children from different delegations and helps to strengthen lasting bonds," specifies Yves Lacoste, who does not forget to thank the sponsors and volunteers "who provide valuable help."

The Caribbean in Brief

U.S. Virgin Islands.

Carnival stronger than taxes

The Virgin Islands Consortium website announced in an article published on April 13 that the government is preparing to issue $15 million in income tax refunds next week. Lieutenant Governor Tregenza Roach emphasized the importance of these payments for families facing rising living costs. "This payment is also part of the government's ongoing efforts to reduce its tax refund obligations before the St. Thomas Carnival," the article specifies.

Saba.

Black Rocks port works: concerns for the marine environment

According to a Saba News article dated March 30, turbidity levels around the Black Rocks port project are under close monitoring following observations of murky waters at the end of March. "The public entity of Saba acknowledges the population's concern about the fragility of the island's marine environment and is striving to provide clear information on the causes of this turbidity and the immediate measures taken to address it," writes Saba News. The article's author specifies that excavation works for the port project are underway. During this phase, natural seabed materials—including blocks, rocks, sand, and fine silty particles—are dredged. "These materials are reused for constructing the internal core of the breakwater and for creating temporary dams necessary for dredging the basin," he emphasizes. During this process, some very fine seabed particles were resuspended in the water. These light silty sediments were then carried westward by coastal currents, forming a visible plume along the shoreline. Since suspended fine particles can harm coral health, the government immediately contacted the contractor, who stopped the works. "The excavation method has since been modified," assures Saba News. "Fine materials are now filtered on land to avoid contaminating the seawater." Saba News adds: "Environmental protection remains a top priority of the Black Rocks port project. Last year, more than 1,000 corals located directly in the project area were successfully transplanted to a peripheral site east of the port zone."

Saint Kitts and Nevis.

Agreements with Guyana to strengthen agriculture

In early April, three memorandums of understanding concerning cooperation in non-lethal defense and security, agriculture and food security, as well as modernization of public administration, were signed by the Prime Minister of Saint Kitts and Nevis, Terrance Drew, during an official visit to Guyana. "This signing marks a significant advancement in cooperation between the two Caribbean nations, building on a long-standing relationship based on shared history, regional solidarity, and people-to-people ties," highlights the Caribbean National Weekly. Regarding agriculture and food security, Terrance Drew emphasized the need to boost local production and reduce dependence on external markets, especially in light of rising global food prices. He discussed opportunities for Saint Kitts and Nevis to benefit from the development of Guyana's agricultural capacities while improving national production through knowledge transfer and technical assistance. "There is much to learn, but also many opportunities," he told CNW. "We want to buy food products from the region—why import them?" Additionally, the Prime Minister formalized Saint Kitts and Nevis's membership in the Global Alliance for Biodiversity, an international initiative launched by President Mohamed Irfaan Ali.

Sint Maarten.

Carnival dressed to the nines

From April 10 until May 5, parades, concerts, and many other events will mark the 55th edition of the Sint Maarten carnival. Thirty-one days of festivities whose full program is available on the organizers' website (sxm-carnival.com). "On the music side, six international concerts will animate the festivities," writes 97150. "A flagship event for fans of Caribbean sounds: the return of Soca Rumble. A tribute concert will be dedicated to Leroy 'King Beau Beau' Brooks, retracing his musical legacy. Finally, the DJ Takeover will offer a show highlighting local DJs."

Jamaica.

Potential deposit of seven billion barrels of oil detected

The Jamaica Observer and the Caribbean National Weekly (CNW) report the announcement by the British oil company United Oil and Gas of the detection of a potential seven-billion-barrel oil deposit in Jamaican waters. United Oil & Gas plc revealed that it had completed the analysis of samples taken from the seabed under the Walton-Morant permit, an area long considered to contain potential oil and gas reserves. According to CNW, United Oil & Gas analyzed 42 sediment cores taken from the ocean floor during its recent geochemical seabed exploration campaign. The analysis detected C4 and C5 hydrocarbons, including butane and pentane, in several samples. These heavy hydrocarbons are generally associated with thermogenic gas, CNW specifies, which forms deep underground under the effects of heat and pressure over millions of years. This distinction is important because thermogenic hydrocarbons are more often linked to oil and gas deposits, whereas biogenic gas generally forms closer to the surface and is less likely to indicate significant oil resources. According to the company's CEO, Brian Larkin, these results confirm the possible existence of an active petroleum system off the coast of Jamaica.

Haiti.

Thirty Dead in a Stampede at a Tourist Site

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According to the major Haitian daily Le Nouvelliste, a stampede followed by a crowd surge on Saturday, April 11, at the tourist site of the Citadelle Laferrière caused the death of thirty people. This tragedy was confirmed to Agence France Presse by the Haitian Minister of Culture and Communication, Emmanuel Ménard. The accident occurred during traditional festivities held in this 19th-century fortress classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and situated at 900 meters altitude within a national park 15 kilometers south of Cap-Haïtien, the country's second most important city after the capital, Port-au-Prince. Le Nouvelliste reports that only one entrance was accessible when a scuffle broke out between those trying to enter and those trying to exit, which caused the deadly stampede. Many injured were also counted.

Guadeloupe.

A man in his sixties shot dead by a gendarme

A man in his sixties was shot dead by a gendarme on Sunday, April 12, late afternoon, in Duchassaing Street in the commune of Le Moule. According to initial reports by our colleagues at 1ère, the gendarmes intervened around 6 p.m. due to disturbances in the public space. Upon their arrival, the man, armed with a knife, allegedly tried to attack them. A soldier then reportedly used a taser, but this was not enough to subdue the man in his sixties. A gendarme drew his weapon and fired three times at the man. The latter did not immediately succumb to his injuries. According to 1ère, local residents who witnessed the scene then shouted at the gendarmes present at the time of the events. The soldier who fired the shots was placed in custody. An investigation has been opened to determine if the use of a weapon was justified. The victim is described by 1ère as "a familiar figure in the neighborhood" who was daily near the bakery. Marginalized after a series of personal and professional problems, he is said to have suffered from psychological disorders, report our colleagues from Guadeloupe.

Dominica.

Tax Relief Measures Extended

Due to rising prices of oil, transport costs, and many goods caused by the conflict in the Middle East, Dominica's Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit stated earlier this week during a press conference that the fiscal measures already put in place to mitigate the increase in the cost of living will be extended. The government intends to extend the exemption of value-added tax (VAT) and import duties on a range of essential goods until next July. "We are, in many ways, innocent victims of a conflict for which we are not responsible, but we must not remain passive in the face of its consequences and must protect our citizens," the Prime Minister declared in the pages of the Caribbean National Weekly.

Saint Martin.

The Collectivity aims to redefine the scope of its taxation

In an article published on April 9, our excellent colleague from 97150 reports on the initial work of the Territorial Collectivity of Saint Martin aimed at redefining the scope of its taxation, simplifying the general tax code, and optimizing tax revenues. "The ambition is to modernize a system that has become obsolete and is now considered unsuitable for the realities of the territory," writes Ann Bouard. "Planned for several years, the reform should see its first applications in 2027, twenty years after the statutory change." Taxation represents 85% of the Collectivity's resources, or about 150 million euros, notes our colleague. "But the diagnosis highlights several weaknesses," she adds. Outdated IT tools, unreliable data, control difficulties that favor fraud, as well as a tax framework that is sometimes unclear and ill-adapted to a fragile economic fabric largely composed of micro-enterprises. The priority will therefore be to modernize a system that has become too complex, with no fewer than ten different software programs used by the public finance department, emphasizes 97150, to end up with a single unified platform. Furthermore, the reform also aims to support local businesses "by simplifying tax regimes, making taxation more transparent, and directing tax benefits toward priority sectors, subject to commitments (employment, training, investment, environmental transition)," the article specifies.

Anguilla.

Temporary Suspension of Calculation Fees on Customs Duties

The government of Anguilla, through the customs department, has just implemented a "temporary relief" measure aimed at reducing the cost of imported goods. Thus, since April 10 for a period of three months, transport and insurance fees will be excluded from the calculation of customs duties on a portion of imports. "This initiative is part of the government's broader response to ongoing global geopolitical developments and their impact on the cost of living," it is stated in an official communiqué. Goods imported before April 10 are not eligible for this measure, whether they were entered, assessed, or cleared after that date.

For consumers, this means that customs duties will be calculated solely based on the cost of the goods. Transport and insurance fees will not be included in the calculation of duties during this period for eligible imports. This measure aims to reduce the overall cost of imported goods and provide relief to households and businesses.

Zodiac

ARIES March 21st- April 20th
Love: You have many advantages on your side. Use them at the right moments. Work-Money: You will propose innovations that will meet some resistance. Health: A small diet would do you a lot of good.

TAURUS April 21st- May 20th
Love: You refuse family constraints, which is likely to create a rather tense atmosphere and disputes will appear. Work-Money: You will courageously tackle the week's tasks. Health: Listen to your body's needs. It will suggest what is good for you.

GEMINI May 21st- June 21st
Love: This period should allow you to get closer to your spouse or partner. Work-Money: You should benefit from exceptional intuition that will put you on the path to success in your professional field. Health: Superb energy.

CANCER June 22nd- July 22nd
Love: Interesting encounters are expected for singles, who may discover the person of their dreams. Work-Money: A rare professional opportunity may present itself. Health: Good balance.

LEO July 23rd- August 22nd
Love: Prepare yourself for a particularly favorable period. Your couple life has chances to be extremely serene. Work-Money: You will experience a generally more favorable atmosphere for your professional and social life. The blockages that bothered you will disappear. Health: You will feel capable of moving mountains!

VIRGO August 23rd- Sept. 22nd
Love: You show yourself very demanding towards those around you. This results in frequent disputes. Work-Money: Your ideas, original without being avant-garde, will also be approved by conservative minds. Health: Do not avoid for too long the self-questioning you must face on intimate and emotional levels.

LIBRA Sept. 23rd - Oct. 23rd
Love: This week promises you tender and romantic moments far from everyday mediocrity. Work-Money: If obstacles block your way, do not give up. Health: You will be overflowing with energy.

SCORPIO Oct. 24th - November 21st
Love: Your love life may experience a spectacular improvement. Work-Money: It will be time to seek advice to make the most of such favorable circumstances. Health: You will triumph over germs thanks to surprising energy.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22nd - Dec. 21st
Love: You will notice signs announcing changes during this week. Work-Money: You will finally get the green light from your superiors to undertake a project you care deeply about. Health: Good overall energy.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22nd - Jan. 19th
Love: You will arouse the admiration of your loved ones, especially your partner. Work-Money: Important responsibilities will be entrusted to you. You will be motivated. Health: Take breaks to keep up the pace.

AQUARIUS Jan. 20th - Feb. 18th
Love: Your astrological sky is clearing up. It's up to you to take advantage of it to erase the little troubles that may have darkened some days. Work-Money: Be more diplomatic with your colleagues if you want to implement your brilliant ideas. Health: Think about relaxing.

PISCES February 19th - March 20th
Love: You resolve family problems very effectively. Work-Money: Your intuition will not fail you in finding good deals. Health: Go to bed earlier.

Useful phone numbers

Regional Environmental Agency (ATE)	05.90.27.88.18
Cross Antilles Guyane (Maritime Rescue)	196 or 05.96.70.92.92
Gendarmerie	05.90.27.11.70
Collectivity Hall	05.90.29.80.40
Territorial Police	05.90.27.66.66
Water Department - 24/7	05.90.27.64.88
Fire Department	18 or 05.90.27.62.31
On-Call Doctor	15 or 05.90.90.13.13
Hospital	05.90.27.60.35

General practitioners

BISSA Blandine	RDV sur Doctolib
Chareyre Stéphane	05.90.27.64.27
Diab Floriane	06.90.58.54.58
Mazue-Naffah Sophie	05.90.27.15.04
Rault Jean-Baptiste	06.90.62.72.82
Tiberghien Yann Eugène	05.90.29.71.01

Dental offices

Barraux Océane	05.90.27.87.28
Bourgeade Carla	05.90.51.98.11
Caraman Losfeld Mihaëla	05.90.52.80.32
Dominici Jean	05.90.27.87.28
Fardel Elodie	05.90.51.98.11
Gardette Romain	05.90.51.98.11
Losfeld Richard	05.90.52.80.32
Mathilde Michel	05.90.51.98.11
Seguillon Marie-Morgan	05.90.52.80.32
Vergniault Pascal	05.90.29.86.08
Orthodontics : Rousson Perrine	05.90.51.98.11
Orthodontist specialist: Merou Patrick	05.90.27.87.28

Other

Ananalysis laboratory :		05.90.29.75.02
Pharmacy	Pharmacy Airport	05.90.27.66.61
	Pharmacy of Gustavia	05.90.27.61.82
	Island Pharmacy St-Jean	05.90.29.02.12
Vétérinaires :	Kaiser Alexandre & Benjamin	05.90.27.90.91
	Estelle Sbaa-Bourdin	05.90.27.89.72
	Watellier Pierre	05.90.77.76.34

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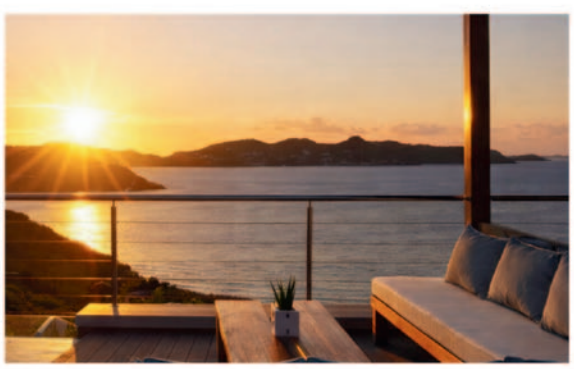

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